The Flyleaf

Friends of Fondren Library Vol. 42, NO. 4 Summer 1992

Many Ways of Giving

TO THE FRIENDS:

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our recent Fondren Saturday Night Gala. It was a wonderful success. Your generosity was overwhelming. Many people and businesses donated exciting auction items, which were enthusiastically received by guests who bid on them. Equally appreciated was the generosity of the many people who contributed their time to prepare for this event.

We were glad to have the opportunity to honor Mrs. Edward Kelley for the generous commitment the Autry and Kelley families have shown to Rice. A former president of the Friends of Fondren Library, Mrs. Kelley has been a very special friend to Rice and its library.

Next year's fund-raising efforts will include a second event: after a long hiatus, we will again sponsor a **book sale**. Donations are coming in already . If you would like information on where to take books for the sale, please contact the Friends of Fondren Library office at 285-5157. Also, we need many volunteers to help organize the items and assist with the sale. If you'd like to participate, your efforts would be most welcome.

The annual meeting marks the last event of the fiscal year; our activities will resume in the fall. Meanwhile, we hope you have a wonderful summer full of great reading!

Sincerely Yours,

Elaine I. Davis
President

RICE UNIVERSITY FONDREN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present facility was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library recorded its half-millionth volume in 1965; its one millionth volume was celebrated April 22, 1979.

THE FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' contributions and sponsorship of a memorial and honor gift program, secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials that could not otherwise be acquired by the library.

THE FLYLEAF

Founded October 1950 and published quarterly by the Friends of Fondren Library, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251, as a record of Fondren Library's and Friends' activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters.

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COVER:

The Fondren Saturday Night XII gala represents one of many ways in which people support Fondren Library through their generous commitment to the enhancement of its collections.

Managing Editor, Betty Charles; Editor, Judy Elswick; Computer Consultant, Tim Freeland; Layout, Scott Gilbert; Photographs, Gina Walters

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Message from Beth Shapiro

As we close out the 1991/92 academic year and begin planning our activities for next year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support.

The Friends of Fondren Library has experienced another successful year. Membership grew by three percent and we now have our highest number of members ever - -1,326. Once again, our gala, Fondren Saturday Night, was a resounding success. Not only did everyone have a wonderful time, but also our total receipts were up 31.6 percent and the amount of profit returned to the Friends of Fondren Endowment increased by 54 percent!

These figures are remarkable considering the troubled state of the Houston area economy. We owe this success in large part to the hard work of the volunteers who serve on our Board of Directors and to you, our supporters.

Beth Shapiro, University Librarian

"...external support is critical because of the ever increasing cost of library materials."

Other aspects of our fundraising efforts also are worth mentioning. Gift and memorial donations grew by 12 percent and we received a 50 percent increase in foundation gifts, due primarily to a $100,000 donation from the Hobby Foundation to support the purchase of library materials in the humanities.

In addition, a wonderful collection of books from the library of Professor Donald Levin, who passed away last fall, were donated by his children. This collection was appraised at more than $30,000.

During the 1991-92 academic year, we will have spent more than three million dollars on books, journals, microforms, audiovisual, and electronic information. At least ten percent of these expenditures will have been funded through gifts and endowment income. This external support is critical because of the ever increasing cost of library materials. Between 1981 and 1990, the Consumer Price Index rose by 51 percent, while the cost of periodicals for academic libraries in the United States rose by 89 percent.

With inflation of books and serials averaging 15 percent per year, we are looking at budget increments approaching $500,000 per year just to maintain the status quo. Any significant enhancements to our materials budget will depend on external support. This is why your support is so crucial.

Overall, external support for the Fondren Library increased by nearly 30 percent over last year. On behalf of the staff of the Fondren Library and the faculty and students of Rice University, I want to express our gratitude and heartfelt thanks for your generosity. Without you, the Library's ability to support the research and curricular needs of our faculty and students would be greatly diminished.

Classics—a way of life

Classics professor Donald Levin died last November at the age of 64, yet many materials accumulated in the course of his career remain at Rice University, where they provide a fitting memorial to the longtime Rice scholar.

These items were donated to Fondren Library by his son and daughter—William Mark Levin and Amy Beth Levin Baum.

Levin's materials include research, manuscripts and course notes, which will be accessible in the library's Woodson Research Center. Volumes from his personal library will be cataloged and shelved as the Donald Norman Levin Collection in the Sarah Lane Lounge, which adjoins the Friends of Fondren Library office on the fourth floor.

Levin's long career covered, among other things, the teaching of classics, Greek and Latin; poetry writing; extensive translations, articles and scholarly papers; and publication of a two-volume work, **Apollonius' Argonautica Reexamined**.

"Clashes between the generations is nothing new, to be sure. Ancient Greek literature is full of it. "

That classics were fully integrated into his daily life and thinking is evident from one of the treasures of the collection: a series of detailed personal journals. Its entries move easily, for instance, from a family disagreement between daughter and aunt into classical analogies:

> ...If it is true that children ought not to act snottily, it is also true that adults should treat children not as objects of derision or contempt, but as fellow human beings endowed both with sensibilities & with a capacity for rational thought.
>
> Clashes between the generations is nothing new, to be sure. Ancient Greek literature is full of it. Think of SOPHOCLES' CREON & HAEMON, for example, or of ARISTOPHANES' STREPSIADES & PHEIDEIPPIDES. Or what of the contrasting follies in TERENCE'S **Adelphoe**, where 1 father-son relationship was characterized by excessive strictness on the part of the former, rebellion on the part of the latter, the other by excessive leniency catering to the junior's licentiousness? But there, of course, another issue arises: that of striving for a mean between extremes much as Aristotle would have recommended.

The journals run the gamut of his life, from observations on news of the day to conversations with colleagues—often sprinkled with notes in a variety of languages.

Levin's journals are both footnoted and indexed. Entries for February 1969, for instance, include "Kolenda"—one of many references to philosophy professor Konstantin Kolenda, who was to die at 68 within two weeks of Levin's passing:

> This noon I read Konnie KOLENDA's `Euthanasia & Other Moral Dilemmas'...Again & again Konnie stressed that the real issues in any significant dilemma focus on imponderables. Take away the imponderables (how this or that choice will turn out ultimately), & the dilemma itself disappears....

At one point, eleven typewritten pages are dedicated to a discussion of imagist poetry, carried on in conversational style with Levin's unseen audience:

> What is a poetic image, if it may be defined? It seems to me that the definition must go beyond such analogical creations as similes & metaphors. Perhaps one would do well to focus in a more positive way than he on something at which PLATO looked askance, namely sensible particulars. Is that not what an image...in fact, is: a concretized particular or even a series of such? And image perception...is something without which a poet can hardly be expected to function."

On another day, Levin mentions his work on an article relating to "Catullus, Propertius & Three Kinds of Ambiguity," noting "suddenly this afternoon the thought came to me that I should for the future attempt something more ambitious: a whole book devoted to the subject of ambiguous expression in Greek & Roman antiquity. Such a book could cover everything from oracles to puns."

Lengthy entries on scholarly topics were variously interspersed with shorter and more personal discussions as Levin continued his journals. He also faithfully recorded current events worldwide as well as his observations in regard to them. One day in early 1971, having just read John Evelyn's account of London's "catastrophic conflagration" in 1666, he noted:

"Historians are surely most grateful that men such as [John Evelyn] kept a record not only of trivia, but also of great events for good or ill which they witnessed. Would that some of my Rice Univ. colleagues had kept a similar record in writing of noteworthy turning points in history of which they themselves had been observers at close hand!"—offering as examples events relating to Mussolini, Hitler and de Gaulle.

More than 10 years earlier, Levin had briefly reflected on his own journal-keeping:

> What is a diary? Literally it is a daily record of events. But some diaries are more. That of Samuel PEPYS is a valued historical document. The discovery of James BOSWELL's lost journals has added greatly to the stature of the already famous biographer of Dr. JOHNSON. Or consider the case of Anne FRANK, whose diary has profoundly affected the world in a way which the teen-ager who wrote it could never have foreseen. Part of that diary's interest lies in its recording of the lives of men & women under unusual stress; part of its interest lies in the authoress' precocious insight into herself, her companions, & all mankind.
>
> I have no illusions concerning my own...Much of it will no doubt seem intolerably dull to anyone but me. Yet I believe it worthwhile to record my actions & especially my thoughts.

Events:

Reception to Honor Prof. Williams

The Friends of Fondren Library is helping to support a reception honoring Prof. George Guion Williams on Friday, October 23, 1992, from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Farnsworth Pavilion of the Ley Student Center. The cost is $15 a person or $25 for a couple. A George Guion Williams Prize in Creative Writing is being established. Contributions to this fund and reservations for the reception may be sent to:

Department of English
Rice University
P. O. Box 1892
Houston, Texas 77251-1892.

For further information you may contact the English Department at 713-527-4840.

In addition, many may wish to give to the Fondren Library to honor Prof. Williams' numerous contributions to Rice University. A book plate will be placed in those books purchased in his honor. Contributions to the Fondren Library may be sent to:

Friends of Fondren Library
Rice University
P. O. Box 1892
Houston, Texas 77251-1892.

Events:

Fondren Saturday Night XII

Fondren Saturday Night XII was truly a gathering of friends. Cohen House was filled with people who were friends not only of the library, but especially of the evening's honorees—Mrs. Edward Kelley and members of the Kelley and Autry families.

Prior to dinner guests had a chance to bid on many items donated for the silent auction; a live auction following dinner was received enthusiastically as auctioneer Bucky Allshouse inspired participants in their generous bids.

Following presentation of a commemorative gift to Mrs. Kelley, her son—Edward "Mike" Kelley—reflected on his family and its ongoing commitment to Rice.

The gala was a huge success, and raised a significant amount of money for the group's endowed library fund, to assist the library in enhancing its collections.

Mike Kelley, Mrs. Kelly, & Janet Kelley

Friends of Fondren Library Gala, April 4, 1992

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CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: Susan Merriman & Joanie Hurd; May Kay Casey, Bob Casey, & Elaine Davis; Jana & Mike Ames; Pam Smith, Geraldine Priest, & Charlotte Rothwell.

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THE FRIENDS OF
FONDREN LIBRARY

February 1, 1992 - April 30, 1992

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The Friends of Fondren Library is most grateful to these new Friends for their interest and to the Friends of longer standing for their support and for renewing their commitments.

Author reception will be held on January 12, 1993

The author reception will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 1993, and will honor the members of the Friends, Rice alumni, and Rice faculty and staff who had books published in 1992. Please send this information to :

The Friends of Fondren Library
Rice University
P.O.Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892.

GIFTS TO FONDREN LIBRARY

February 1 - April 30, 1992

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